The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Write Your Senators And Congressmen to Repeal T-H Law

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State Board Flouts T-H Law Doctrine; Denies Election Vote to Scab Workers

By ARNOLD BRICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

New York—The State Labor Relations Board has recently decided a union representation case which directly flouts one of the basic foundations of the Taft-Hartley Law and it takes issue with its philosophy that a worker does not have a stake in his job if he goes on strike.

The state board recently took jurisdiction in a small strike called by Local 32-B, Building Service Employees International Union in order to obtain union recognition. As soon as the strike was called, the landlord against whom the strike was called hired scabs.

At a hearing, the landlord argued that since the striking employees had been replaced by two other employees hired on a permanent basis, "only the replacements should be eligible to vote or, in the alternative, both the strikers and the replacements should be eligible."

In rejecting this employer argument, the board declared—and Senator Taft take notice—that:

"A strike is not a quitting of employment. It is a cessation of work with the intention of resuming the job under more advantageous terms or conditions.

"It was recognized, even before the advent of the Labor-Relations Acts, that a strike does not itself sever the employment relationship but that a long been a matter of common acceptance by both employers and employees, that striking employees return to their jobs on the termination of a strike . . .

"The problem of determining whether the employees in question have been permanently replaced were before us, we should have little hesitancy, upon this record, in finding that persons hired at will during the strike did not become 'permanent' replacements by the employer's mere say so. We are not concerned with that problem in this proceeding. Although economic strikers who have been permanently replaced, may have no absolute right to reinstatement, they have the right, while the dispute is still current, to solicit a representative to bargain with their employer, and to raise the question of their possible reinstatement, but also as to rates of pay, wages, hour and other conditions of employment."

In reaching this employer argument, the board declared—and Senator Taft take notice—that:

"A strike is not a quitting of employment. It is a cessation of work with the intention of resuming the job

Congress Weighs Pay Hike For Classified, Postal Jobs

Washington.—A subgroup of the Senate Civil Service Committee gave its tentative approval to bills which would increase pay of federal classified employes and postal workers.

Meanwhile an AFL delegation, headed by President William Green called upon President Truman to ask him to speed congressional action on pay increase measures.

The Senate unit approved a bill to give an average pay boost of $125 a year to the 950,000 classified employes. The percentage increase in all grades would be 3.6. The 21 different CAF, SP and P grades would be merged into a single General Service schedule of 12 grades with a salary range from $2,020 to $14,000 a year.

The same subcommittee gave qualified approval to a bill that would raise the salaries of the 500,000 postal employes a flat $100 each. In addition, the new P-6 postal grade would be abolished so those now starting salary for clerks and carriers to $2,950. This second provision would have the effect of increasing the salary of many postal employes to as much as $500 a year.

In the House, more than 70 members signed the petition to discharge the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee from further consideration of the Miller bill to give postal employes a flat $100 pay raise, to abolish the 4 year grade, to provide 26 days annual and 15 days sick leave, and a $160 annual uniform allowance for mail carriers. The committee itself is holding hearings on the Miller and other pay bills.

Pay raises under the classified bill would range from a minimum of $6.46 to a high of $670 a year. In addition, some officials who are at the present $10,500 ceiling would be lifted to $14,000, an increase of $3,500.

The "performance rating system" with possible ratings of Outstanding, Satisfactory and Unsatisfactory would be established. Employes under the present rating system. Only an unsatisfactory rating could be appealed, and it is up to him whether or not he would be allowed that appeal.

An "efficiency awards committee" would be set up in each agency to give awards to each employe, to supervisors and employes who reduce personnel and otherwise cut down the cost of their work.

The Civil Service Commission would be authorized to set a differential up to 50 percent for hazardous work. During a period of emergency the commission would recommend a scale of permanent hazard pay to the Congress.

Construction Industry Jobs Below 1948; Dollar Volume Remains Over Last Year

Washington. — Contract construction employment in mid-June totaled 2,081,000, according to preliminary estimates of the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. This represents an increase of 60,000 workers from the revised mid-May estimate, but is 92,000 under the number employed in June 1948.

The dollar value of new construction put in place during June totaled $2,759 million, 11 percent above the May estimate and slightly above the amount spent in June 1948. The largest dollar increase from May to June this year were for private homebuilding, public housing work and construction for privately owned public utilities.

Man-hours paid for employment had risen by 445,000.

Most of the June 1949 rise in contract awards was in residential construction in the West North Central and Middle Atlantic States, two regions of the country showed some decline from June 1948. Other areas a slight decline from mid-May was registered.

The dollar value of new construction during the first half of June totaled $1,759 million, 11 percent above the May estimate and slightly above the amount spent in June 1948. The largest dollar increase from May to June this year were for private homebuilding, public housing work and construction for privately owned public utilities.

Organization Shift in Labor Dept. To Tighten Child Labor Regulations

Washington.—One of the federal government's biggest tasks is to investigate the working conditions and enforce employment regulations affecting some 2 million youngsters who work the year around and go one to one and a half million others who join them in the summertime.

By congressional action, that task became part of the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Standards' program for promoting improved labor standards. Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin has announced.

The labor and hour employment program was placed by a congressional supplemental measure years ago in the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Division, charged to enforce the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Public Contracts Act. Secretary Tobin said there was no straightforward way to draw the surface of the nation's working youth was closely bound up with good labor standards for all workers. Both will be strengthened by incorporating the youth program into the Bureau of Labor Standards, the Secretary stated.

The Bureau of Labor Standards is headed by William L. Connolly, and the child labor research program will be directed by Miss Elizabeth Brandeis, who performed a similar function in the Wage and Hour Division.

The department's responsibility for child labor work has moved upward several times in recent years. In July 1946, the program was transferred to the Bureau of Labor Standards by Secretary of Labor. A year later, Congress moved it to the Wage and Hour Division. The latest change represents both legislative and executive agreement that the child labor program's growth now dictates its transfer to the Bureau of Labor Standards, Secretary Tobin said.

Under the bureau's new program, investigations of industries employing workers will also be investigated and their findings studied, and the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, to protect the employment of youngsters under 18 in such work. Seven orders have been issued by the Secretary governing their employment in and about plants manufacturing explosives, as motor vehicle drivers and helpers, in coal mining, logging and sawmills, the operation of woodworking machines, employment in radioactive substances and on hoisting apparatus. Other investigations are now in the progress and will have the benefit of, and lend strength to, the industrial safety activities for adult workers carried on by the Bureau of Labor Standards. Information on industrial accidents and occupational diseases will also be analyzed and disseminated.

The bureau will also recruit labor laws and assistance to state officials and employers in industrial safety and in supporting better legal standards for protecting workers at home and part of the work of the Bureau of Labor Standards.

Truman Signs Federal Housing Act; New Law is Major 'Fair Deal' Victory

Washington.—With the stroke of a pen President Truman put the finishing touches to the first major chapter of his "Fair Deal" program, the long-range federal housing law.

Affixing his signature to the measure, the President declared:

"This legislation permits us to take a long step toward insuring of the well-being and happiness of millions of our fellow citizens."

The bill signed by Mr. Truman contains five major features:

1. A slum-clearance program in which the federal government will put up $1,000,000 in loans and another $500,000,000 in grants to assist localities.

2. The low-rent housing program, to be handled by local authorities, is designed to provide $10,000 units in the next six years and contemplates the federal government to annual maximum subsidies of $285,000,000 over a 40-year period.

3. Broad housing research designed to improve construction while reducing costs.

4. Farm housing aids providing for loans and, in some cases, grants to improve and rehabilitate farm dwellings, with the federal commitment estimated at $225,000,000.

5. A 60-day extension from last June 30 of the temporary authority for the government to insure loans by private lenders up to $2,500 for repairing and remodeling houses; a 60-day continuation of authority to insure mortgages for construction of small homes up to $5,000, and a $600,000,000 increase in the amount of mortgage insurance that the government can issue for single-family or multiple-dwelling units.

Simultaneously with signing of the new law, Raymond M. Foley, Housing Administrator, announced that the first publicly owned dwelling units would be started in the first year of the program. The slum-clearance provisions of the bill require some time for a start because of the detailed planning that must be done, as well as presumably new legislation that will be required by local communities.

Foley declared, "I intend to move speedily," and added that he was "confident" that the first units of the appropriations required by the program will be started.

In his public statement issued at the signing, Mr. Truman called the law a "far-reaching measure" that "extends the principle of decent homes in wholesome surroundings for all Americans from the slogan to the realm of the sublime."

TRUMAN ASKS $33,650,000 FOR U. S. HOUSING PROGRAM

Washington.—President Truman called for a $33,650,000 appropriation to begin work on the long-range housing program. The money also would pay for a farm housing census.

He requested that the Treasury be given authority to make $25,000,000 in loans to start the farm housing program, a part of the federal law.

At the same time the House passed and sent to the Senate a bill permitting federal mortgage financing of private building of low-cost homes for military posts.

The President also asked Congress for a $10,000,000 loan to the Federal Housing Administration to establish a military housing insurance fund.

AFL KENTUCKY LABOR SCHOOL OPENS 47th ANNUAL SESSION

Richmond, Ky.—The fourth annual Kentucky Labor School officially opened here with 45 students registered for the 1949 session, which is being held on the campus of Eastern Kentucky College.

Seventeen American Federation of Labor international unions and federal local unions are represented at the school which is sponsored by the Kentucky Federation of Labor.

The students will study collective bargaining, shop steward training, public speaking, parliamentary procedure, union administration, political action, labor legislation and taxation. A work shop on union publications will also be conducted.

U. S. WHOLESALE PRICES ADVANCE 1% IN WEEK

Washington.—Average primary market prices advanced 1 percent in the week ended July 12, 1949, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The index was 154.2 percent of the 1926 average, .3 percent below 4 weeks ago and 8.9 percent below the comparable week of 1948. All major groups of commodities advanced except fuel and lighting materials, which remained unchanged.

RENTS RECONTROLLED AFTER 77% INCREASE

Washington.—Housing Expediter Tighe E. Woods ordered rent controls restored in Rockwood Borough and Black Township in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, after the local rent board reported rents jumped 77 percent when controls were removed in April.

It was the second time Mr. Woods had used his power to restore controls once he had removed them. The first was in Americus, Ga.

The new rent law authorizes him to restore controls if he finds that decontrol has led to unreasonable increases. But he cannot restore controls where they have been removed as a result of action by local governments.

Local Option Clause Of Federal Rent Act Held Void by Judge

Chicago.—Judge Elwyn R. Shaw ruled in Federal District Court here that Section 204(d)—the local option clause of the 1949 rent control extension law—was unconstitutional.

Judge Shaw indicated he believed Congress had no powers to delegate to the states its power to legislate, saying to attorneys for both sides:

"There is no reason for my delaying to inform you that the local option provisions are unconstitutional and void."

At the same time Judge Shaw stated that he would study attorneys' arguments and rule on whether by virtue of his ruling on Section 204(d) the whole act was unconstitutional.

William S. Kaplan, rent control office attorney, told Judge Shaw that if the law was found void because of one section of it, all rent control would be affected and the entire act later might result."

Mr. Kaplan argued that the local option clause, which authorizes states to pass their own rent control laws, including provisions for decontrol, was separable in that it is no matter of the statute that the remainder of the statute must fall.

The arguments were heard in the case of the rent office for an injunction to restrain Benjamin Kandy, the last of the 11 Rebellious Cooperative Apartments, Inc.

NewWage Minimum For Glass Industry

Washington.—The wage for employes engaged in the manufacture or supply of products of the flat glass and glassware industry" in amounts exceeding $10,000 in value per year by the government under the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act must be no less than 83½ cents an hour.

This was announced by Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin in signing of an amendment to the U. S. Department of Labor's basic industry minimum wage determination for the 70-odd industries affected. In addition to increasing the new minimum wage finding over the 75½ cents an hour cents an hour, the amendment also established a new rate of 62½ cents an hour for beginners under special learning certificates. It will take effect August 16.

The wage determination also changes the industry designation from "flat glass industry" to "flat glass and blown glass and glassware industry."

Secretary Tobin' action is based on the record of public hearings held last February 9 to consider a petition of the AFL Federation of Glass Workers' Union of North America for a wage increase. In order to secretary establish a new rate of at least 90 cents an hour.

It is estimated that some 36,700 employes engaged in flat glass and blown glass and glassware industry will receive the prevailing minimum wage determination.

AFL FIRE FIGHTERS ASS'N NAMES TECH. CONSULTANT

Washington. — The International Association of Fire Fighters announced that Dr. David J. Price, formerly of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry of the United States Department of Agriculture, has accepted their invitation to become technical consultant to the Fire Fighters Association. Dr. Price recently retired from federal service after completing more than 37 years of research work on dust-explosion and fire prevention.

Dr. Price will direct his efforts to studies of fires and explosions where firemen are killed, crevasses are fire gases or injured while fighting fires. He will also direct the fire tests and studies of the hazards encountered by firemen during fire fighting operations, additional knowledge will be developed regarding the nature and effect of fire gases with a view to developing safety measures for their control and elimination.

WIS. UPHOLDS STRIKE BAN

Madison, Wis.—The Wisconsin Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of a 2-year-old state law prohibiting strikes, lockouts or slowdowns involving public utilities. The court held the state legislature had the power to pass such a law because of the "vital" public interest involved.

AFL Transit Worker Retires Under Union-Won Pension

Chicago.—After 42 years and 4 months as a trolley pilot, James Farrell is glad enough, thanks, to turn over his Racine Avenue run to younger hands and settle down to a quiet life among the flowers at his home on Chicago's far South Side.

Jim retired July 1, at the age of 65, one of the first to benefit from the new pension plan of the Chicago Transit Authority, the municipal body which now runs the street car system here.

Jim is gratified to Division 241, Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes (AFL) for a whole lot the case to arbitration and won the improved pension plan, one of the best in the land.

But then Jim always was aware of the value of his organization. He was a young man, only a year out of Ireland, when he got his start for the old Chicago City Railway Co. He started with one of the first electric cars on the Halsted Street line, which Chicago then owned. There were even a few horse-drawn cars still running up and down State Street.

"I was paid 19 cents an hour then," said Jim. "And we worked 10 to 12 hours daily, with only one day off a month. Some of the runs were long. We have come a long way since then."

It's been a long way since the days when there were 6 different street car companies in the city, and the fare on each was a nickel. Some riders would pay up to 25 cents to travel from one end of the city to the other on 5 different systems.

It's been a long way since the big strike after the first World War. The new generation on the street cars has never been on strike. Differences are settled by collective bargaining, through the union.

It's been a long way since wages were $14 for a 7-day week of 10, to 12 working hours per day. At the time he retired, Jim was working 6 days for $1.46 an hour, averaging $78 a week.

Under the pension plan, Jim's monthly payment from the retirement fund is $131. In addition, he and his wife, Catherine, receive $57.53 a month under the old employe-financed social security program, for a net monthly income of $188.83.

Their 5 children have grown up and married. Jim and Catherine will do all right on $188.83 a month. They have come a long way too. They would like to say a big "thank you" to Joseph J. Kehoe, president of Division 241, and Daniel J. McNamara, secretary.

"They worked hard for us when we had our jobs," said Jim. "They worked hard for us when the going was tough."

JOBLESS PAY IN ILLINOIS INCREASED 15% BY LAW

Chicago.—Gov. Adlai E. Stevenson signed 3 bills to increase disability and unemployment benefits for Illinois workers. Injury and sickness benefits under the workmen's compensation and occupational disease laws were increased 15.4 percent across the board by the bills.

No longer will it be possible for a person to quit work and draw compensation during a vacation. Officials did not estimate how many persons might be affected, but they said the saving should be enough to finance the increases in maximum benefits which would be made for legitimate claimants.

Senate Leader Anzuniio, State Labor Director, estimated that Illinois employers would save $16,000,000 in 1950 by a reduction in the contributions they make to the unemployment insurance fund, which now has a reserve of more than $500,000,000. The minimum tax is reduced from one half of 1 percent to one-quarter of 1 percent. The rate for each employer varies according to the number of former workers who have drawn compensation.

Truman Organizes Coordinating Agency To Aid Areas With Heavy Unemployment

Washington.—Carrying out a step proposed in his mid-year economic report to Congress, President Truman set up an agency to coordinate efforts to cope with unemployment.

Under the President's program, the government will, in areas deemed to be in need of assistance because of excessive joblessness, concentrate its purchases when feasible, accelerate construction projects, or recommend tax changes to the Congressional Finance Corporation.

Mr. Truman designated Dr. John R. Steelman, the assistant to the President, to coordinate activities of the various federal agencies and department in supervising the anti-recession program.

On the basis of reports on the unemployment situation, it is apparent that New England will be considered as one of the first areas to receive federal aid. Officials in industrial centers there, unemployment reached a figure of 12 percents as of the middle of July.

Chester C. Bowles, governor of Connecticut, reported that 12 percent of all one-eighth of all workers in the state were jobless and that more than 30,000 had been out of work so long that they had no longer draw unemployment compensation.

In Rhode Island, it was reported, a third of our industrial workers either out of work or working part time. Gov. Bowles said:

In announcing the government program for aid to stricken communities the President said that Secretary of Commerce Sawyer would make a survey and determine where there is extraordinary unemployment. Then he said, Dr. Steelman will see what can be done to help.

Mr. Truman sent a memorandum to the Cabinet officers who are heads of some 11 agencies and commissions, asking their co-operation with the new agency.

Meanwhile, Robert C. Goodwin, Director of the Bureau of Employment Security, released the results of a survey which pointed up the fact that unemployment varies greatly from area to area and that "in a number of areas it has become an acute problem."

The national unemployment rate was 7 percent or more in 46 areas, including 10 with rates of 12 percent or more, the survey showed.

Among the areas the following areas reported unemployment of 12 percent or more as of June 15:

Fall River, Massachusetts; Providence; Bridgeport and Waterbury, Connecticut; Paterson, New Jersey; Lewiston, Me.; Knoxville, Tenn.; Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; Muskegon, Mich., and San Jose, Calif.

New Building Planned For Headquarters Of AFL's Meat Cutters, Butchers Union

Chicago.—Plans for a new $350,000 building, to house the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America headquarters, were announced here by Patrick J. Gorman, president, and Patrick E. Gorman, secretary-treasurer of the AFL international in the meat industry.

The building will be constructed in the latest of a growing number of AFL labor temples, which include permanent structure in Chicago. Construction also is in progress on the beautiful new homes of the Air Line Pilots Association, International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 399.

For many years the Chicago musicians' union, the plumbers and the carpenters' union have occupied magnificent temples of the labor movement. More recently, the electrical workers have purchased a large building, and many other crafts own smaller structures.

The meat cutters' building, with an exterior of Bedford stone, trimmed in limestone, will add to Chicago's architectural beauty. It will contain 32,000 square feet of working space. An electric organ will be installed for educational programs for employes and members. The structure will be dedicated to the memory of members of the union who sacrificed their lives in World Ware I and II.

The amalgamated, which has been fighting for the welfare of meat cutters and butcher workmen for 59 years, is a compact, now has a membership of 250,000 in 1,000 locals in 48 states and Canada.

The amalgamated was chartered by the AFL in 1897, but unions of cattle and sheep butchers and meat cutters had existed in the Chicago stockyards before that. In 1886, the time of the Haymarket riot, a strike of the Chicago butchers' union was on day temporarily, but lost it 6 months later when the packers repudiated their agreement.

And bringing working conditions up from the degraded standards reported by Upton Sinclair's book, "The Jungle," the amalgamated has secured terrific strikes in 1904 and 1921, but in recent years has achieved many of its peaceful methods.

Since its formation, the amalgamated has constitutionally forbade discrimination for reasons of race or color. The union stuck to the line throughout its long growth, during which time occasional appeals to racial group after another in large numbers to create dissension and break strikes.

UN Economic Council Urged to Probe Violations of Trade Union Rights

Geneva.—The establishment of a fact-finding commission to probe violations of trade union rights was urged upon the United Nations Economic and Social Council here today.

Creation of the commission was called for in an agreed memorandum submitted to the council by Sir Vincent Tewfik Fatin, secretary of the International Labor Office, and Ben Moore, secretary-general of the United Nations.

The recommendations call for establishment of a fact-finding and conciliation commission, composed of independent persons not representing governments. The commission would undertake investigations upon recommendations of either the ILO or the United Nations. Commission members would be chosen by the United Nations and the ILO—not by governments.

Complaints about violations of trade union rights could be submitted either before both the Economic and Social Council and the ILO. Where charges are purely propagandist complaints from Communist-dominated bodies like World Federation of Trade Unions, for instance, however, governments or non-Communist labor movements charging oppression and violation of national laws and international agreements by non-Communist governments.

The proposals submitted were carefully drawn to avoid any conflict of problems.

On the one hand, the operation of a commission of this type would, it is thought, help to expose the evil of Communist sallie by on-the-spot investigation of Communist inspired propaganda. Non-Communist trade unions have long been the victims of attacks against Communist governments to distort anybody strike or anti-union thing would come of this, as investigations would be undertaken only with the consent of the government of the country concerned. Also, the Communist union leaders would like to be the ones to call for help.

On the other hand, a number of non-Communist governments, particularly in Latin America, have repeatedly violated the most elementary trade union rights by non-Communist labor leaders. Once the commission is established, these governments would be unable to hide behind anything but themselves in the same position as the Communist governments by refusing cooperation with the United Nations.

CONGRESS BANS OVERTIME ON OVERTIME WAGE CLAIMS

Washington. — Congress voted an amendment to the Wage and Hour law (Fair Labor Standards Act) to prohibit payment of overtime pay on-overtime back-wage claims for overtime work during the war years.

In effect, the Labor Department and employers would be relieved from back pay claims for overtime work made prominent by employers during the war years. Employes, for 2 days, nights, or on the sixth or seventh day of the week, received "overtime" premiums under the Wage and Hour law. As time "overtime," such premiums would not have to be added to an employes straight-time pay in determining his "regular rate" for overtime compensation purposes, and could be credited against overtime compensation due under the Wage and Hour law for work after 40 hours in a week.

The amendment to the Wage and Hour law, if approved by President Truman, would have a retroactive effect, thereby eliminating the long-shoremen's claims. This amendment, in effect, overrides a decision of the Supreme Court handed down a day or two ago.

The amendment was approved by both houses of Congress and sent to the White House. It was not being confined only to the claims made by longshoremen.

RENT CONTROLS STILL COVER 71 PERCENT OF POPULATION

Washington.—Rental dwellings have been coming off the control list for more and more months, but even the new rent-control law went into effect on April 1, federal-rent officials revealed.

They said, however, that few of the decontrol actions taken under the machinery set up by the new law have affected any really large metropolitan areas and that some 14,000,000 units still remain under control.

As of June 30, they said, defense rental areas were completely or partly covered by controls. They were located in 1,047 counties with a population of 96,353,444 persons—or about 70.9 percent of the total population.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

Write Your Senators And Congressmen to Repeal T-H Law

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, JULY 22, 1949 GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

House Kills Brannan Farm Program; Extends Present Price Support Plan

Washington.—In a revolt against the Administration, the House killed a proposal for a 2-year trial run of the Brannan farm program and voted to continue the present agricultural price support system for another year.

By a teller vote of 222 to 182, the production payment method of supporting farm income was turned down. Then the House went on to approve continuation of the present support system in lieu of a modified version due to become effective on January 1, 1950.

Defeat for the Administration at the hands of a coalition which included many Democratic stalwarts came despite the pleas of Speaker Sam Rayburn who appealed for support for a trial of the proposal of Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan to make up the difference between market prices and support levels by direct payments to farmers.

In the course of a short speech, which concluded 2 days of debate, Mr. Rayburn also predicted that the cost of the present price support system "is going to be such that one will be going to injure the farmers and the welfare legislation." He said Democratic Representatives of urban districts had voted unanimously over the years for "our farm program," receiving nothing in return.

"But some of these days, unless we pay a great deal more attention to the consumers of this country, they may rise up and make it hard for us to continue this program," he asserted.

The speaker was referring to the contention of Brannan Plan support-ers that consumers would benefit since with farmers under its terms, since market prices would be allowed to drop to normal levels instead of being bolstered by loans and purchases.

Besides extending the present price support system through 1950, the bill as passed would repeal flexible price-support provisions of existing law that are due to become effective next Jan. 1. These provisions of the 1948 act, sponsored by Senator George D. Aiken, Republican, of Vermont, received delayed status as the result of a session-end compromise between the House and Senate last year.

Portions of the law already in effect, and to be continued under terms of the bill passed today, require rigid support of major crops at 90 percent of parity. Parity is a price designed to provide a fair balance between what the farmer receives for his products and what he must pay for his needs.

The present parity formula is calculated to give the farmer a sales return equal in purchasing power to the amount the same commodities brought in the 1909-14 period.

The administration bill, besides authorizing a trial run of production payments on potatoes, sugar and shorn wool, contained a new parity formula proposed by Secretary Brannan as part of his over-all program. The latter, instead of the 1909-1914 period, was to be a moving one—the first 10 years of the most recent 25-year period. The bill called for support of major commodities at 100 percent of the new parity.

Under present law, 90 percent of existing parity is slightly lower than 100 percent of the proposed new parity.

'Flyingest' Pilot Retires; Son to Carry on at Trade

United Air Lines photo

Captain E. Hamilton Lee (left), a member of the AFL's Airline Pilots Association with 4,400,000 miles of flying to his credit, at the controls of a United Air Lines transport before his retirement after 36 years of flying. With him is his son, Captain Robert E. Lee, who will carry on the family tradition.

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent of the AFL News Service

Chicago.—The oldest member (in point of service) of one of the youngest crafts of the American Federation of Labor was congratulated by President Truman and Postmaster General Donaldson upon his retirement after 36 years at his trade.

He is Capt. E. Hamilton Lee, a member of the AFL's Airline Pilots Assn., who has flown 4,400,000 miles during his career—the equivalent of 177 trips around the world at the equator. He was flying for United Air Lines when he retired this summer.

In congratulating the "flyingest man in the world," the President and the postmaster general paid tribute to the pioneer pilots who have carried the U. S. mail through every kind of weather in the tradition of the pony express riders. "Nothing stops the United States mail."

Lee was born April 6, 1892, in Paris, Ill. As a boy in Minneapolis he used to bicycle out to the airfield where A. T. Heine, a pioneer pilot, was giving a dilapidated puncher flights. One day Heine told young Lee, "Stick around and I'll give you a ride."

Lee climbed into the flight, sitting out in the open with his legs hanging free and his arms wrapped around the strute. It was only a short trip—but that Lee himself was learning to handle a plane.

In World War I he joined the air "outcast" with more than 200 hours of flying already to his credit. He taught flying at army air fields in Texas and was transferred in 1917 to Selfridge Field, Mich., where he taught acrobatic flying to army air corps cadets.

After the war, Lee signed up in December, 1918, as a flyer in the new air mail service between Washington and New York, then only 7 months old. He flew the run between College Park, Md., and New York, 218 miles.

His planes were Curtis R-4's, Curtis Hispanos and Standard Hispanos. Between December, 1918, and July, 1920, he made 136 trips over the route. When the air mail service was extended, "Ham" was assigned to the Cleveland-Chicago run. Eventually, he flew every portion of the entire transcontinental air route.

In 1927, he switched to Boeing Air Transport, when it took over the San Francisco-Chicago portion of the transcontinental route. Boeing was a subsidiary company of United. In his airline, Capt. Lee took the new technological advances of airplane manufacture as he worked through single-wing flying, enclosed cockpits, Boeing 80-series, Boeing 247's and two-engine Douglas DC-3's.

In his 39 years on an air mail flying he saw aviation develop from 90-mph. open-cockpit planes to 5-mile-a-minute, 4-engine airliners.

"We didn't have much besides our wife to help us to do the job in the early days," said Lee. "A magnetic compass, an altimeter and a crude sort of speed indicator made up our flight instruments. Instrument landings were more the rule than the exception."

He will retire to his home near Seattle, a landlord in Glendale, Calif., where he owns an apartment building and a string of bungalows. His son, Robert E. Lee, who is a captain on the Chicago-New York route for United, will carry on the family name. He joined United in 1942.

Building Trades Wages Up Only 2% in 6 Months

Washington.—Union wage scales of workers in the construction industry advanced 1.7 percent during the quarter ending June 30, 1949, and on July 1 advanced $2.20 an hour, the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated on the basis of its quarterly survey of 7 basic trades in 85 cities.

The 2 percent rise in scales of wages from the first of the year is the smallest gain achieved in any building trade quarter in the entire period since World War II ended. In 1948, wage rate increases for the first 6 months amounted to 6 percent. During 1947 and 1946, the basic scales rose 71 percent, three-fourths of which occurred after V-J day.

Union scales are the minimum wage rates agreed upon through collective bargaining between employers and unions. Overtime pay and yearly established maximum daily and weekly hours is excluded. The scales do not reflect either rates for apprentices or premium rates, since they do not represent total hourly earnings of union labor.

Between April 1 and July 1, 1949, a third of the workers covered by the survey received increases, the majority of which ranged from 10 to 15 cents an hour. In most instances, however, the increases were negotiated for another year without any change in wage scales. Some local unions in 32 of the 85 cities surveyed were negotiating new scales in progress on July 1.

Estimated increases in union rates from April 1, 1949, and rate levels on July 1, 1949 in 85 cities are shown below. In computing average rates, the increases in each trade are applied to all union workers in the trade.

Trade	Amount of Increases April 1, 1949, to July 1, 1949 (Pct.)		Rate Levels July 1, 1949	
	(Cents per hr.)	Low	Average	High
Bricklayers	2.3	6.2	$1.75	$2.76	$3.00
Carpenters	1.6	3.5	1.63	2.27	3.00
Electricians	1.8	4.3	1.75	2.49	3.00
Painters	1.8	3.8	1.38	2.20	2.50
Plasterers	1.5	4.8	1.75	2.51	3.00
Plumbers	1.5	3.8	1.75	2.54	3.00
Building laborers	2.1	3.0	.75	1.47	2.13

Article Exposes Soviet Mind Control In Denying Russians Voice in Affairs

By GEORGE S. COUNTS
Teachers College, Columbia University

Since the October revolution of 1917 the Russian Bolshevik leaders developed the most comprehensive and far-reaching system of mind control known to history. They have been able to surpass earlier despotisms in this respect because they have had at their disposal all of the resources for the molding of the mind that modern science and technology have created. They coordinate and employ these agencies—the school, the press, the radio, and the moving picture, the automobile, the airplane, and the machine gun, science, literature, and art—with utter ruthlessness and singleness of purpose.

The key to the understanding of this system of mind control is the all-Union Communist Party, or the Party of Lenin and Stalin, with its 6 million members, its central committee of 72, its politburo of 14, and its complete and far-flung apparatus. Here also is the real key to the totalitarian nature of the Soviet Union which so many people are asking for today. For only the party, and not the government, is the Soviet state.

The Party of Lenin and Stalin of course is not a political party at all in the sense in which the term is used in democratic states. It rules without the authority nor with the consent of the people. Like its predecessor, the empire, it can be dislodged only by violent revolution. Its general structure and mode of operation it is a kind of political army. Following with amazing precision the plan for a revolutionary organization outlined by Paul Pastel, a Russian revolutionist of the early nineteenth century, it has its three levels or circles of membership: it has its commissioned and noncommissioned officers, its high command. The duty of the soldiers and officers is to carry out the orders of the high command. The high command is made up of members of the politburo and 72 members of the central committee.

In Lenin's time the operation of the party was supposed to proceed under democratic forms. These forms were lost. According to this principle all policies would originate above and be put in the rank and file in the thousands of local party organizations that have been organized. Thereafter delegates would be elected to conventions to represent the members at regularly called meetings, and the policies adopted would be binding on the entire membership. Under Stalin this entire process has been abandoned. Party congresses are rarely called, convened in the spring of 1939. And the congress scheduled to meet soon in the near future, as promised, one may be certain that every delegate will be carefully picked by the leadership and will be required to ratify beforehand the basic policies of Stalin and the politburo.

Under this system of control there can be no discussion of party policy, either foreign or domestic. Decisions are announced and translated by the party high command, and the party membership is informed of them in the form of a resolution by the central committee. It is therefore the function of the other members of this political army to carry the policy to the people, to explain and argue, to persuade and cajole, to secure the adoption of resolutions of approval, and to prevent the emergence of any kind of organized opposition. All branches of the cultural apparatus are made to serve the same purpose. The Soviet citizen reads and listens in vain for the slightest criticism of any policy declared by the central organs of the party.

Union By-Laws Supporting Boycott Ruled Illegal by NLRB Examiner

Washington.—The application of a union's by-laws that supported a secondary boycott was knocked out under the Taft-Hartley law by a ruling of an examiner for the National Labor Relations Board.

The examiner, David London, made the finding in a case brought by the Joint Contractors Association of Joliet, Ill., against Glaziers Union Local No. 27 of the Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America, AFL.

These by-laws sought to prohibit members from working on projects that used preglazed sash, in which a glass is installed in frames before shipment to the construction job.

The examiner ruled it was not unfair for the union to refuse to furnish members in "unfair" employment or for work on "unfair" jobs, or to declare that contractors refrain from using preglazed sash and sign a contract to that effect.

Explaining that ruling, he said the facts occurred before there was an employer-employee relationship. It has to be added, "the persons alleged to have been threatened and encouraged are members of the union, and not the 'employer' or 'employee' Furthermore, not having been employees, they cannot be coerced refusal' could not be 'in the course of their employment.'" Such persons, he concluded, are not subject to the secondary boycott ban.

In the same case, Mr. London ruled that the union violated the secondary boycott ban on several occasions by picketing and encouraging members to cease working on certain projects which were declared unfair under the union's "fair" list. But at the same time, he ruled that the union did not violate the secondary boycott ban by picketing "unfair" lists. These lists were supplied to contractors in Joliet setting forth those projects on which the union would permit its members to work.

DELAWARE VOTES BONUS FOR WORLD WAR VETS

Wilmington.—Delaware's voters have approved an unspecified bonus for the state's veterans of World War II.

In a special election, 227 out of the state's 261 districts reported that 42,835 favored payment of the bonus, while 9,101 opposed it. The measure did not specify the amount of payment but veterans' organizations asked for a maximum of $300. The Wilmington Junior Chamber of Commerce opposed the bill.

AFL UNION, HERSHEY CO., AGREE ON NEW CONTRACT

Hershey, Pa.—The Hershey Chocolate Corporation accepted a federal-state compromise of a dispute with the Bakers and Confectionary Workers Union, AFL. The noisy previously accepted the compromise offer. The dispute centered about establishment of a union shop, and the compromise involves a requirement that all employes who left the union after the first few months shall rejoin and pay back dues.

LUCKMAN TELLS BUSINESS TO CUT PRICES, GET ON BALL

Los Angeles.—Decrying the economic "inflation" which he said now pervaded the nation "from boardroom to barroom," Charles Luckman, president of Lever Brothers Co., urged that American business revitalize its efforts so the country would not worry itself into illness amid untold possibilities of expansion and prosperity.

Business, he said, must shake off the buyers' market psychology, and establish advertising, selling and productive processes to meet a post-war demand which has not been fulfilled, and "sell" the private enterprise system by performance rather than words.

Asserting that too many business men had remained in the grip of inertia and timidity, he called for "facing up immediately to inventory losses," lowering prices wherever possible and developing new products, processes and services.

AFL Political Conference Sets Big Drive For 1950 Elections

AS WE SEE IT

The following is excerpted from the July 19th radio program, "As We See It," a new series presented by the American Federation of Labor over the nationwide network of the American Broadcasting Company each Tuesday evening from 10:30—10:45 EDT. The views of Joseph D. Keenan on politics and labor were expressed in an interview with James G. Crowley, radio commentator.

By JOSEPH D. KEENAN
Director, Labor's League for Political Education

Labor's League for Political Education is an organization set up and dedicated, first, to see to it that the people of the United States get the information on the important issues of the day, so far as political candidates are concerned, so that when they make their selection at the polls they will vote for people who believe in the American way of life.

Every American citizen can vote and that's another aim of the American Federation of Labor and Labor's League—that all of the bars that now prevent the American citizen from voting be lifted.

Now I believe that there is a very large organization that the only concern that labor has is in the Taft-Hartley Act. Repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act is our job, but I think labor has a greater responsibility.

In supporting candidates, the league will weigh how they voted on housing, minimum wage, social security, federal aid to education, development of our natural resources and, of course, the Taft-Hartley Act. Labor will back those men who have supported the general welfare measures.

I believe that the charge that a great welfare program would lead to state control is the easiest answer for those that oppose it because, when you stand up and accept the welfare roll, you will find that labor in particular in this country is against socialism as well as totalitarianism in general. I think that the American Federation of Labor, the American Federation of Labor will be one organization that will be in there fighting to the bitter end to keep this country in the free enterprise system, we believe in the free enterprise system also.

There is a great danger in this country. There is a group that would like to lull us to sleep on this Communist issue, but there is a greater danger of Communism from within than from without. Follow along with me. And as long as they can lull us to sleep on this left issue they'll make hay while the sun shines. There's a great strong America that will be lulled to sleep by a group of fast talkers who will not state the facts-they'll cheat.

I believe that the greatest aim of Labor's League for Political Education is to inform the people of the various bills and laws mean to our welfare. If they get that information, again I'll say, they'll vote right. I don't believe that we have a right as labor unions or as a labor organization to dictate to anyone. We certainly have a right to develop a program and ask congress to support it.

The American people have not been properly educated on the problems of the day. I think when you read the paper day after day that there is a "colored" story on every issue. I think that one of the greatest monopolies in this country is the distortion of the news that we get. I think one of the most important problems is to try and reduce the cost of living. The second most important is housing. Follow along with minimum wage—increasing the rate from 40 cents to 75 cents. Then social security. I think that for the good of the country we must set up a social security system that will give those people that are unfortunate enough to depend upon it, enough money to live in decency.

In order to maintain a high national income we must keep the farmer prosperous so that he can buy the products from the factories of the large cities. If the farmer is out of balance, if his income is down, then naturally it will affect the manufacturer in the city and the retailer and go right on down the line. The interest of the farmer, the worker and the employer is one.

Labor is opposed to Senator Taft because he has gone a long, long way in his efforts to destroy the trade unions of this country. I want to point out that when you destroy the trade unions you are destroying an influence that is dedicated to carrying out the program that I mentioned some time ago. So it's natural that labor is concerned about Senator Taft. He has a record as a member of opposing labor at every turn. I don't believe he has ever made a study as to just what labor has done, been responsible for in this country. I think we have made an impression on our record. And I think that when the people of Ohio go into Taft's home town, they will vote and vote right.

Tobin Clarifies New Overtime Pay Law; Explains Effect of Premium Payments

Washington.—New principles established by the congressional amendments to the wage and hour law relating to provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act during the Taft-Hartley era, have been announced by Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin.

Under the amendment, certain premium payments for work on such days as Saturdays, Sunday, holidays, nights, or the sixth or seventh day of the workweek, need not be added to the employee's regular rate for determining his "regular rate" for overtime pay purposes, but may be credited toward overtime compensation which may be due under the Wage and Hour Law for work in excess of the 40-hour week. Before the amendment, which is retroactive in effect, made no credit for such premium payments, for purposes of the act, section 7 (e) of which the Supreme Court held were not "true overtime" pay under the act.

The types of premium payments which may be treated as overtime premiums under provisions of the amendment are:

(1) Extra compensation provided for by premium rate paid to the employee for work on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, or for work in the seventh day of the workweek, provided such premium rate is not less than one and one-half times the rate established in good faith for like work performed in nonovertime hours on other days;

(2) Extra compensation provided for by a premium rate paid to the employee under an applicable employment contract or collective bargaining agreement, for work outside of the hours established in good faith by the contract or agreement as the basic, normal, or regular workday (not more than 8 hours, or as the basic workday may be established by such contract or agreement) or workweek (not more than 40 hours, provided such premium rate is not less than one and one-half times the rate established in good faith by the contract or agreement for like work performed during the basic workday or workweek.

F. Grasvelle Grimes, Jr., acting administrator of the labor standards bureau of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, explained that these principles are, under the amendment, applicable to all industries, not just those enumerated, however, that they are limited to premium payments in excess of the rates and work periods "established in good faith."

This phrase is used for the purpose of excluding from the overtime premium forming to the act as amended from fictitious schemes and artificial, evasive devices such as have been condemned in a long line of decisions by the Supreme Court and several United States courts of appeals. The congressional committee reports explaining the amendment state that the enactment would in no way validate any scheme or device to offset the principles established by this and other decisions.

Grimes added that the effect of the amendment on the interpretations and enforcement policies of the wage and hour division of the enactment is being studied and that a revised statement of the divisions' position on the act's overtime compensation requirements, as changed by the amendment, will be issued shortly.

Urges $2 Contribution From AFL Members For Campaigns

Washington.—Labor's 1950 election campaign strategy was mapped out here at a conference of some 300 national and AFL leaders called by Labor's League for Political Education.

Pointing for the defeat of anti-labor congressmen in the Senate and House, the conference voted to recommend to the administrative committee of the LLPE a proposal to solicit from AFL members and their friends a $2 contribution for political work at the national, state and local precinct level.

Joseph D. Keenan, LLPE director, said the league would concentrate its activities in states where it has "better than an even chance to win."

Specifically, Mr. Keenan mentioned Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Missouri and Colorado where the LLPE will concentrate its energies to defeat Senators Robert A. Taft, Homer E. Capehart, Forrest C. Donnell and Eugene Millikin.

The LLPE chief said, however, that labor would "have a pretty tough fight" in the re-election of Senators Wayne Morse, of Oregon; Hugh Hayden, of Arizona; Lister Hill, of Alabama; Olin D. Johnston, of South Carolina, and John McMahon, of Connecticut; Warren G. Magnuson, of Washington; Francis J. Meyers of Pennsylvania; Claude Pepper, of Florida, and Robert Thomas, of Utah.

The fund raising proposal, submitted to the conference by a committee headed by Cornelius J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the California State Federation of Labor, urged the collection of $2 from each of the AFL's 8,000,000 members on a voluntary basis. Keenan said he was "attracted by the national LLPE which would, in general, raise the bulk of the amount and return the other half to the state and local areas." He emphasized, however, that in many cases the funds plowed back into state and local contests would exceed half or more of the total collected in those areas. The committee report, adopted by the conference, urged that the funds be used "in sections where it is most needed."

Expressing hope that the LLPE committee would have a political chairman in each Congressional district, Mr. Keenan said he hoped that each precinct captains would be named in each of the 175,000 labor union precincts.

Statements of league officials who spoke at the conference served to emphasize the labor movement's stake in a vigorous drive for the election of a Congress which would be receptive to labor's program.

William Green, AFL president, spoke of what he had achieved in success in the 1948 campaign, but he warned that the fight of labor to have its program enacted by the present Congress was "unfinished." He also blamed "reactionaries" for the defeat of certain bills. "I want to teach the 'reactionaries' a lesson that can be learned," he said. Education would have to devote itself next year, he added.

George Meany, AFL secretary-treasurer, suggested that the Senate vote on the Taft omnibus labor bill be published "paraded" in the press in 1950.

Keenan told reporters that organized labor would seek to make a solid front with other groups in order to join the congressional battle for repeal of the Taft-Hartley law.

High up on the labor list for attainment, he said, is the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act and reenactment of a modified Wagner Act.

Then would come social security legislation and minimum wage extension, he added, with a strong fight press for health insurance, civil rights legislation and aid to federal education.

William C. Hushing, heading the AFL Legislative Council, reported on the operations of the Taft-Hartley Act. He explained to the conference that a far-reaching labor bill could be passed at this session of Congress.

He explained that the AFL's executive Council was of the opinion that no acceptable labor bill could be passed at this session of Congress.

The organization of labor's forces to omit any references to injunctions, Hushing said, "does not foreclose the possibility that even though the same Congress would be in session in January the mood of the members "may be different."

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, Democrat, of Minnesota, touched on this point, too, in a brief address, saying that the labor vote could make or near some members might be inclined to change their views on proposed labor legislation.

AFL ELECTRICAL WORKERS WIN 20-CENT WAGE BOOST

Albany, N. Y.—The wage scale for union electricians in the Albany area has been increased 20 cents an hour. Under a 1-year contract signed by Local 724, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL, and the Electrical Contractors Association of Albany, the new rate, retroactive to July 1, is $2.50 an hour. About 225 electricians are affected.